



# 325th Forward Support Battalion



VOL 5 - 01

News Bulletin

1 January 2005



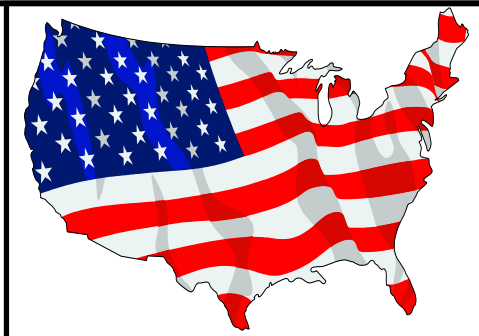
Friends and families of the 325th Forward Support Battalion,

Merry Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year from Kandahar, Afghanistan. We want you to know that although we greatly missed being with you, we are also keenly aware there is tremendous pleasure in doing one's duty. We truly appreciate the sacrifices all of you are making on behalf of our nation and the future of Afghanistan. We remain steadfast in our commitment to the mission here, yet also eagerly anticipate our return to the land of the free and the home of the brave.

To celebrate Christmas in Afghanistan, Chaplain Cho hosted a Battalion talent show that featured your Soldiers performing skits, singing, dancing, reading poetry and even rapping. The Chief of Staff of the Army, General Peter Schoomaker joined us as a special guest. General Schoomaker personally presented CSA Coins to all the participants of the top three acts of the evening. He was impressed and so was I. Even Santa Claus joined us for the festivities.

In addition to GEN Schoomaker and Santa Claus, we were visited by numerous other VIPs this holiday season. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Richard Meyers hosted a USO show featuring future Hall of Fame quarterback John Elway and actors Blake Clark (Waterboy, 50 First Dates) and Robin Williams. Sergeant Major of the Army Preston hosted another USO show featuring WWE Smackdown Champion John Bradshaw Layfield (JBL), liberal comedian Al Franken and country music singers Mark Wills and Darryl Worley. Without exception, they all expressed their gratitude on behalf of the American people for your Soldiers' efforts in the Global War on Terrorism.

The President of the United States clearly expressed the hopes, meaning and joy of the season in his Radio Address this past weekend:



*Laura and I extend to all Americans our best wishes for the holidays...The Christmas season fills our hearts with gratitude for the many blessings in our lives. And with those blessings comes a responsibility to reach out to others....Christmastime reminds each of us that we have a duty to our fellow citizens, that we are called to love our neighbor just as we would like to be loved ourselves.*

*During the holidays, we also keep in our thoughts and prayers the men and women of our Armed Forces, especially those far from home, separated from family and friends by the call of duty. In Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere, these skilled and courageous Americans are fighting the enemies of freedom and protecting our country from danger. By bringing liberty to the oppressed, our troops are helping to win the war on terror, and they are defending the freedom and security of us all. They and their families are making many sacrifices for our nation, and for that, all Americans are deeply grateful.*

*The times we live in have brought many challenges to our country. And at such times, the story of Christmas brings special comfort and confidence. For 2000 years, Christmas has proclaimed a message of hope: the patient hope of men and women across centuries who listened to the words of prophets and lived in joyful expectation, the hope of Mary who welcomed God's plan with great faith, and the hope of Wise Men who set out on a long journey, guided only by a promise traced in the stars.*

*Christmas reminds us that the grandest purposes of God can be found in the humblest places, and it gives us hope that all the love and gifts that come to us in this life are the signs and symbols of an even greater love and gift that came on a holy night.*

*Thank you... and Merry Christmas*

*-- President George W. Bush*

In preparation for our return to Hawaii, we have initiated an 18-week relationship training program that focuses on understanding partners and improving communication skills. This proactive approach to the family reintegration process will allow your Soldiers to return home with a better understanding of your relationship and techniques to improve upon it. We have completed week five already. You can start deriving benefits now by asking your Soldier what they have learned thus far. My wife Sally and I sincerely hope that this deployment will make you appreciate your relationships and loved ones more than ever.

Faithfully,

Robert G. Young  
Battalion Commander



GEN Schoomaker, Santa Claus, and the Staff



Mustang Eddie gets his bling-on at the bazaar



# 325th Forward Support Battalion

VOL 5 - 01

News Bulletin

1 January 2005



Once again it is time for an update from sunny Afghanistan. It seems like the days here last so long, but the weeks and months fly by. The Henchmen of HQ&A Company have been busy supporting CTF Bronco and other units in Southern Afghanistan. They continue to provide first-rate logistical support to the forces fighting in the Global War on Terrorism. Each section in HQ&A Company has been extremely busy keeping the Soldiers on the front line equipped.

It has been a busy month for the Supply Platoon. Several Soldiers have participated in support missions in the Area of Operations (AO) for Task Force Bobcat (2-5 INF). SPC Martin replaced PFC Shelton without a drop in the refueling operations at Tarin Kowt (TK). In addition SPC Henri replaced PFC Carter as a forklift operator in TK. The Soldiers that conducted fuel and forklift operations in AO Bobcat have done such a superb job that TF 2-5 now requests them on a by name basis. SGT Matthews replaced his fellow Water Dawg, SGT Yon, at TK so that SGT Yon could go home on leave. While on leave, SGT Yon's wife gave birth to a new baby. Their new addition is most certainly the best Christmas present ever. 2LT DeTomaso and SGT Freeman have certainly taken advantage of the moves, sending numerous packages of gifts to the supply platoon Soldiers in TK, Cobra and Anaconda.

Also in AO Bobcat, PV2 Lara set up a modified version of a Forward Area Refueling Equipment (FARE) system at FB Anaconda. He convoyed with SGT Matthews from Tarin Kowt to FOB Anaconda in his M978 HEMTT fueler. Despite the slick and uneven roads SGT Matthews and PV2 Lara arrived safely and set up the system immediately, completing yet another successful mission for Supply Platoon. PFC Vaughn went to FOB Cobra to set up a modified FARE system. All the necessary equipment arrived safely thanks to the sling load expertise of SSG Castaneda, SGT White, and SGT Freeman. The CL III section works closely with the infantry units to ensure that the fuel systems are as far forward as possible.

Supply Platoon has also been busy in AO Cacti (2-35 INF). SPC Boekhaus convoyed with the TF 2-35 from KAF to Shinkay in his M978 HEMTT fueler. He sustained the troops there with his HEMTT fueler until they were able to set up a modified FARE system. SSG Washington, SPC Sanella and SGT Konetsky established an outstanding water site at FOB Lagman. I had the opportunity to visit FOB Lagman twice and was able to deliver candy and gifts to the Henchmen at FOB Lagman. I think they were excited about my visit, but 2LT DeTomaso thinks they were more excited about their Christmas gifts! The next destination for Operation Christmas Drop is FOB Shindand where SGT Stevens operates a Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit (ROWPU) for 3/4 CAV.



## The Henchmen!

The Central Receiving Point (CRP) was officially handed over to Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) on December 17th. Many of the Soldiers found themselves in a job other than their primary MOS. Soldiers were sent to assist with missions at the headquarters, transportation platoon, water and fuel sections. In headquarters, SPC Diaz is now assisting SPC Scarberry in the supply room and SGT Kelly is joining SGT Hale as a HQ&A Company Motor Sergeant. SGT Phillips is working reenlistment at Battalion, and SGT Oliveras will be joining CPT Gianelli and CPL Williamson at the Class IV Yard. SPC Hammel has joined 2LT Demayo, SSG Hyde, and PFC Yazzie at the Forward Distribution Point. SPC Henry, SPC Greer, SPC Petruska, PFC Carter, PFC Brandani, and PFC James are now part of the fuel and water section. SPC Robertson and PFC Trehal joined the Transportation Platoon and are now Delta Dawgs.

As we all know, "Nothing happens until something moves" and that is exactly what the Transportation Platoon has been doing this month!! We had SSG Castillo return to the platoon from a long four months out in Jalalabad with the 3-6 Marines. While out with the Marine Corps, SSG Castillo supported every mobilized operation that their company was tasked with. In addition, he received some high speed combat training; particularly on the 23rd of October, when his vehicle was struck by an IED. SSG Castillo represented HQ&A Co LTF-325 to the highest standard and we are thankful to have him back, safe and sound. Here in Kandahar, the platoon has been busy with DHL flights loaded with mail from back home. Thank you all so much, and Happy Holidays. The Dawgs are very pleased to announce a few new additions to our platoon. They are SPC Robertson and PFC Trehal from the Central Receiving Point. Welcome to the Transportation Platoon and we look forward to moving with you on our team! This month the Down N Dirty would like to recognize SGT Snodgrass as Mrs. Kandahar, and our platoon Soldier of the month! SGT Snodgrass took first place in the female Body Building competition. We are so proud of her. Her enthusiasm and discipline for physical training is an example to her platoon!

The ASP has been busy keeping up with the ammunition requirements for RC South. The KAF ASP lost an important part of their team this month, but the 221st Ordnance Company gained as a whole when 1LT Spelock departed for Bagram Airfield to take over as the commander of the 221st Ordnance Company. His leadership will still be felt in KAF and CW3 Gaby and SFC Carlson are more than up to the challenge of Class V operations in RC South. This month, the ASP hosted the Henchmen Holiday celebration. We had a great showing at the ASP as they cooked steaks, chicken and other assorted goodies in celebration for the upcoming Holiday Season. Thanks to everyone that participated in the event and thanks especially to ASP for hosting. It was another chance for us to gather as a team and a family, and celebrate the season.

This month has been extremely exciting as we continue to provide support and have the Holiday Season fast approaching. It has been wonderful talking to all of the Soldiers about the surprises in store for their families back home. And, it has been equally exciting seeing all of the boxes and letters coming to the Soldiers from family, friends and patriotic Americans. We feel especially thankful for the continuous outpouring of love, support and generosity from the American people. As we approach the year 2005, we will not forget the great challenges that 2004 has afforded us and how we handled those challenges bravely and without fail. It has truly been an honor to command the Henchmen in 2004 and I look forward to commanding them in 2005.

CPT Adam Kuhn  
1SG Julio Bensimon



Robin Williams entertains the Henchmen



The commo section still believes





# 325th Forward Support Battalion

VOL 5 - 01

News Bulletin

1 January 2005



Aloha,

The Rough Riders enjoyed a very good holiday season this year. We had a warm place to live, three very good meals a day, safety and security, and the love of our families. I can't think of anything that could have made our holidays any better. When it's all put into perspective, being away from our families may not have been as bad as it appeared to be. Where else would we have had the privilege of serving our nation with the finest young Americans our country has to offer and also serving the Afghan people in their attempt as a new country, free of terrorism. Despite a lack of press, there is significant history being made here. The Rough Riders and I are honored to be a small part of something that we will never forget and may never fully realize. All of that makes this Christmas Season so much more rewarding and fulfilling than we could have imagined.

Of course that does not mean that we didn't have a Christmas party and enjoy all of the traditions of home. We had our party on December 18th. Every Soldier received, at least, a gift bag from home, a gift from the company and a stocking stuffed with snacks and candy. Others also received a Secret Santa gift if they signed up for the exchange. There were ribs, t-bone steaks, white and Mexican rice, chips and salsa, baked beans and plenty of soft drinks. We also conducted several skits, the highlight being the "12 Days of Details" by SPC Tyler, SPC Baker, SPC Ewings and PFC Romano. They put all their favorite details into it, like trash detail, Sergeant Major detail, Local National security and others. SGT Steed and PFC Seever also did a life size rendition of a desk top, music box with a Snowman and Rudolph-dressed-up dog playing Jingle Bells. It was a great time that could have only been better if we were with our families.

I would especially like to thank (in no particular order): Sandra Jackson, Shirley Monge, Lori Garcia, Donna Poole, Christy Terry, Cindy Mashburn, Evelyn Teats, and Angie King for all of the gifts, decorations and holiday spirit sent to us here in Kandahar. You all made a world of difference in our holiday party and spirit. I would like to thank every one else who also contributed that I either forgot or who chose to remain anonymous. The best part is that there are still boxes flowing in. Mahalo, to you all.

There were several other events during the Christmas week as well, concluding on Christmas Eve with a battalion talent show and a visit by the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA), General Schoomaker. "The 12 Days of Details" came in third in the talent show, but it wasn't for lack of effort. PFC Romano, PFC Ybarbo, SPC Meyers, SGT Menard, PFC Bilger, SPC Tyler, PFC Nobles and PFC Stringfield all received



## Roughriders!



Roughriders sporting their new hats



PFC Romano, SPC Tyler and SGT Menard receiving their Christmas supper



Lake Rough Rider – it does rain here

third place prizes and a coin from GEN Schoomaker who arrived in time for the finals. The talent show was followed by a picture taking session with the CSA. He stayed until every Soldier that wanted a picture with him was taken care of. I think I can speak for everyone when I say that we all feel privileged to have had GEN Schoomaker here with us this holiday and it is one that we will never forget, and neither will he.

Some of the notable events of December: we welcomed several babies – the Rand's (son), Cato's (daughter), and Pope's (son and daughter) all are proud new parents. We conducted several promotions: 1LT Viola, CW2 Williams, SSG Denny, SSG Bunch, SGT Czarniecki, SPC Stringfield, SPC Gabriela Carrico, SPC Kirk and SPC Ewings. SSG Clark, SSG Hendricks and SSG Edwards were all selected to become SFC as well. So many Soldiers received Chief of Staff of the Army, JLC Commander (COL McKenna) and BN Commander (LTC Young) coins that I don't have enough space to list them. Just ask your spouse to show you their coin collection when they return home. However, I can list the Soldiers who earned Army Achievement Medals for exceptional service: PFC Bragg, PFC Brown, SSG Clark, SSG Clothier, SFC Dalina, SPC Kirk, SGT Madsen, PFC Mashburn (two), SGT Mozard, SPC Odden, SPC Tyler, SPC Welch and SGT Young. SPC Welch and PFC Brown earned theirs for achieving first place in the quarterly Bravo Company Maintenance Competition. We also had several reenlistments: SGT Mozard, SGT Tyrell, SSG Rand, SSG Patterson, SSG Rosado, PFC Beavers, SPC Green, SGT Saltsman, SSG Jarvis, SGT Murphy, PFC Ybarbo and SGT Garcia.

Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers and gifts. Thank you for the privilege of serving you. And, most importantly, thank you to all of our families. I can't say enough about your love and support and what it means to us. Feel free to contact 1SG Teats [teatsd@kaf.afgn.army.mil](mailto:teatsd@kaf.afgn.army.mil) or myself [woodworthd@kaf.afgn.army.mil](mailto:woodworthd@kaf.afgn.army.mil)

Mahalo,

CPT Woodworth and 1SG Teats.



# 325th Forward Support Battalion

VOL 5 - 01

News Bulletin

1 January 2005



Greetings and Aloha once again from Kandahar- and HAPPY HOLIDAYS. It has been yet another busy month for the members of the Cold Steel team. We have had some inclement weather this month, it has rained on numerous occasions and is raining for the 20<sup>th</sup> hour as I write this. It is cold and wet, but at least it keeps the dust down...

Congratulations to SGT Varga and SPC Hanuszcak for winning the Battalion NCO and Soldier of the month, respectively. Congratulations, also to SSG Lee, SSG Oneal, and SGT Ruff on their reenlistments. SSG Oneal was privileged to reenlist in the presence of the Sergeant Major of the Army while he was here on tour, and SGT Ruff was sworn in by the Chief of Staff of the Army- the highest ranking General in the US Army. Again, congratulations.

The morale, welfare and recreation folks made a great showing this month, with numerous activities for Soldiers to participate in. These included a flag football tournament, step/dance contest, a talent show created by our own Chaplain Cho, and many other activities.

Congratulations to the dance team of 1LT Miller, SGT Gaynor and SPC Standley on their victory in the talent show.

There were also numerous USO shows this month with appearances and performances by Robin Williams, John Elway, Daryl Worley, Mark Wills, and many others that came to sign autographs and show their appreciation of the sacrifices being given by all of the Soldiers here- and of the sacrifices of their loved ones.



**Cold Steel!**

The dining facility went all out for the Christmas meal, with turkey, ham, Cornish hens, roast duck, and prime rib. It was a great meal (especially the pie), but not quite as good as home, of course.

Thanks to the FRG for the Christmas pizza ingredients, they will be put to good use on the Company Morale Day on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

From all of us, to all of you, thanks for your support through the holiday season. Please keep the letters and emails flowing and, as always, we will strive to do the same.

Until next month....

CPT Ryan Eckmeier and 1SG Ella Lalone



GEN Schoomaker and SGT Ruff



SSG Lee's Reenlistment Ceremony



SSG Vanderberg, SMA Preston and SSG Oneal